NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1870.—TRIPLE SHEET.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

THE DARIEN EXPEDITION.

AMERICAN INTER-OCEANIC CANALS-SURVEYS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE-SAILING OF THE EXPEDITION,

The determination of the Government to undertake an immediate exploration of the routes for a canal across the Isthmus of Darien, and the presence of an expedition in our port, just about to sall on this undertaking, give exceptional interest to the

While the success of the Suez Canal, if it can be called a success, is limited in its effects to the commerce of a few of the maritime powers of Europe, in direct proportion to the extent of their Asiatic connections, and will eventually be confined in its results still more strictly to the ports of the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, the world-wide importance of a westward commercial channel from Europe to Asia has been thoroughly understood for nearly 400 years, and the realization of this idea has been from time to time attempted by men of the most far-seeing genius and daring enterprise. In our day the possibility of this realization has been steadily narrowed to the discovery of an available passage across the Continent of America-and one of its, so to speak, incidental developments, has been the Pacific Railroad-but "in the beginning it was

When Columbus set sail from Palos he had not the remotest idea of discovering a New World, his grand dream being the opening of a new and shorter route to the Orient, and he at last actually died in the belief that the lands he had discovered were portions of China, Japan, and the Indies. Those who went with him and came after him were so thoroughly imbued with the same idea that it entirely overshadowed in their minds, even after they were convinced of their magnificent mistake the importance of their actual achievement, and every river, bay, gand inlet, from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the Straits of Magellan, was explored and penetrated with little concern for its relations to the Continent actually found, but with the hope of discovering a water way by which the ships of Europe could sail through on their search for the rich commerce of Cathay. It will be under stood from this that for the first century after the discovery of the New World, America was esteemed, in the minds of Europeans generally, very much in the nature of a mere obstacle, a barrier in the way of established commerce, and the realization of pre conceived hopes and expectations.

A more complete acquaintance with stubborn ge graphical facts compelled the abandonment of the lreams of the early explorers, and the old idea has had over two centuries of slumber, until the course of events has developed on the new Continent: commercial power, with great cities, growing communities, and vast mercantile and political interests, en the shores both of the Atlantic and Pacific, whose absolute necessities of intercommunication call for some new attempt to solve the problem which vexed the souls of Columbus, Balbon, Hudson, Cortez, and Magellan. Nor can it be too distinctly written down at this point, that the interest of the Government and people of the United States in an interoceani ship canal, between the Atlantic and Pacific, is to-day excited with reference to the necessary communication tion between the Atlantic ports of our own land and those of our Pacific possessions and Asia, and of the same facilities between our own Pacific ports and our Atlantic harbors and Europe. The solution of this problem must be made with a rigid regard to the interests of American commerce and American political interests.

This doctrine is rapidly becoming generally well understood and accepted; a few months of trial, comparatinely, have convinced us as a people, that the Pacific Railroad, with all the splendid certainties of which it has assured us, is inadequate to the solution of the great problem of our commercial future and a great and growing interest is gathering around the efforts which the present Administration has set on foot for the purpose of procuring trustworthy information as to the nature and promise of our several possible interoceanie transits.

The expedition which has been expected to sail from this port to-day, is, we presume, intended only as a beginning in the right direction. The amount of the appropriation at the disposal of the Executive, and the consequent power of the expedition, utterly forbids the attainment of a satisfactory final result, but we are glad that a beginning has been made The expedition consists of the gunboat Nipsic, about 500 tuns burden, carrying two 9-inch broadside guns one H-inch pivot gun, amidships, and a 30-pound rifle, and the Guard of a similar class and armament. The former is to be flagship and the latter, storeship. The expedition is under command of Lieut.-Com. Thomas [O. Selfridge, and the Guard is in charge of Lieut.-Com. E. P. Lull. It is understood that all the officers of the two ships have been selected with special reference to their individual fitness for the duties expected of them, and they have been reenforced by a botanist, a geologist, a telegraph operator, a photographer, and draughtsmen, all civilians, and Messrs. Sullivan, Leman, Ogden Merriden, and Karcher, officers of the Coast Survey They take with them an abundance of scientific instruments, including about 80 miles of telegraph wire and powerful batteries. Presents for Indian tribes and other miscellaneous paraphernalia form a part of the outfit.

The object of this expedition is to act under the auspices and upon the territory of the Republic of Colombia, and its probable usefulness is therefore confined within certain limits. It is designed to ascertain if the existing depressions in the Central Sierras, or any of them, with, or without river connections and utilization, present the features required for the construction and operation of a ship canal. Such col'ateral considerations as climate and the eafety of human life, will no doubt force themselves on the attention of Commander Selfridge and his associates during the prosecution of their work, and it is to be hoped that our Navy will not be compelled to bury too many "martyrs of science" in a region which has borne so evil a name for healthfulness almost from the day of its dis,

Meanting it may be of interest do examine som things that have been attempted, prior to our own day, in this same important direction. It would see: as if every one of the earlier, if not of the later, ex plorers of the several American "narrow lands," the moment he had picked his way from occan to ocean, became stricken with the fever of inter-oceanic communication, by canal or otherwise. There are road and reilway projects all but innumerable, and exportations for not less than twenty-siz canals have appeared in printed form, not to even hint at the greater number of those which never arrayed at that

Among the earliest we may mention that, shertly after his conquest of Mexico, Cortez conveyed arms and materials, for ships which he was building or the Pacific shore, across the Isthmus of Tehnantepec and thereupon wrote # series of letters to the En peror Charles V., urging the construction of a "Ro man road" and drip canal at that point, in connec tion with the Goalzacoalgos River. This is probably the oldest enterprice of all, and was revived by the Spanish Government, early in the present century only to be thwarted by the Mexican Ecvolution. The Mexican Government once more attempted it in 1842-3, and completed its surveys in 1864, but could go no further for want of money, and is now again proposing to make the attempt through the agency of an American company.

At its southern extremity the territory of Mexico is widened by the long, projecting, mountainous peninsula of Yucatan, and just below this the mountain ranges are depressed and the continent narrowed to the Istimus of Honduras. Here, splendid harbors, a fair climate, and a fertile soil, have suggested the construction of a range of but beg several explo-

rations for a canal have demonstrated its all but in superable difficulties.

We now come to the Territory of Nicaragua, and this has been more fertile than all others together in projects for interoceanic ship canals, owing to the apparent advantages presented by the take of Nicaragua and its rivers and outlet, combined with the comparatively low elevation of the Sierras at this point. We may mention eight as having engaged the serious attention of scientific men and capitalists, as follows: By way of Rio San Carlos and the Gulf de Nicoya; Rio Niño, Tempisque, and Gulf de Nicoyo; Rio Sapoa and Bay of Salinas; Rio San Juan del Sur; Rio Brito : Rio Tamarinda and Lake Managua; Ralijo and Lake Managuas; Bay of Fonseca and Lake Managuas. There can be no question but that by one or other, if not by all of these routes a ship canal from ocean to ocean is possible, but it may be well to quote the following opinion of Rear Admiral Davis of our own Navy in this connection. He quotes the language of Mr. E. G. Squier concerning the survey of Col. Childs, made for ship-canal purposes, as follows:
Childs's survey is the only one to be accepted as conforming to modern engineering requirements, and thus
says: "The line selected by Col. Childs proceeds from
Lake Nicaragias by a short and casy route to the harbor
of Brito. It traverses the lake directly to its outlet at
Port San Carlos: it employs slack-water navigation on
the San Juan River for a distance exceeding 90 miles,
and thus pursues a canal, independent of the river, to the
narbor of San Juan del Norte. This plan of operations
requires it locks to descend from the lake to the Pacific
Ocean, and 14 locks to descend from the lake to the Pacific
Ocean, and 14 locks to descend from the lake to the Carlobean Sea, in which last enumeration are included light
locks at dams on the San Juan. There are seven dams
on the river. Costly improvements, in the character of
artificial harbors, will be necessary on the lake. * *
The total length of the line is a little more than 194
miles. It may be safely asserted that no enterprise
presenting such formidable difficulties will ever be undetaken with even our present knowledge of the American isthmuses." Col. Childs, made for ship-canal purposes, as follows:

This, however, is only the Admiral's personal opinon, compiled from the evidence thus before him, and without actual survey of anything but the publications of others.

The most important point to the southward is that of Chiriqui, but here we have no surveys sufficiently extended to aid in forming an opinion

Passing over a number of mere preliminary examnations at different localities, we come to the Isthmus of Panama, and here not less than four distinct routes have been surveyed for a ship canal. In connection with Chagres River, from Gorgona to Panama, and from Trinidad to Caymite; also from Navy Bay, by way of Chagres River, Rio Bonito, and Rio Bernardo, and from San Blas to Rio Chepo. In this vicinity the extreme depression of the isthmus and its narrowness would seem to indicate a prompt answer to the canal question, but here we are met by the fact that the absence of any supplies of water for a "summit level" forces the necessity of a salt water canal clear through from ocean to ocean, without lockage, and the moderate elevations be come at once again formidable, while the terrors of the climate fearfully reënforce the difficulties presented by the topography and hydrography of the several routes indicated.

South of Panama lies the Isthmus of Darien, which s almost as old as that of Tehuantepec in connection ith inter-oceanic transit. The first settlement on the mainland of America was made here, with what a tragic result the readers of American history are doubtless familiar. Here, too, five several routes have been surveyed, and the present expedition will do remarkably well with its \$40,000 appropriation if t adds materially to our stock of knowledge concernng any one of them. They are from Caledonia Bay to the Gulf of San Miguel; by way of the Arguia, Paya, and Tuyra rivers to the Gulf of San Miguel; and, in connection with the Atrato River, by way of Rio Napipi and Cupico, Rio Truando, and Rio Tayra, Gulf of Uratá, or River Atrato.

It is confidently asserted that by one of these Atrato River routes a canal can be constructed from ocean to ocean without lockage, and from an examination of the surveys it would certainly appear that such is the case. Others require tunnels of a mcgnitude to dwarf any that have ever been elsewhere dreamed of, and the proposed achievement, in either case, calls for an amount of expenditure which reminds us of the National Debt.

It is hardly too much to say at the present day, owever, that at one point or another the attempt will be made to penetrate the American isthmus with a ship canal, and that such a creation may be regarded as one of the inevitable facts of the future. But while the several surveys at which we have briefly glauced fail to supply the place of future and re accurate explorations, they are sufficient to induce great caution against a too hasty con clusion in behalf of the pet project of any one association of "speculative engineers." In fact, after all questions of climate and engineering difficulties have peen daly considered and equalized, it remains to be considered by our executive, legislative and financial authorities, that the location of so vast a work as a ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific has its bearing upon our own commercial and political fusure more than on that of the rest of the world, and that, in case of war, the position and control of such a channel would surely be of all but vital import. In short, the Isthmus country extends for over 1,500 niles, and is not therefore all equally near to the At-Partie and Pacific ports of the United States.

Since it seems to have been determined that the people of the United States as a whole, through their National Government, shall undertake the survey and location of the proposed canal, it may be sedown very positively that this people will not be satisfied with any partial survey, of one point and in one particular behalf, but will insist upon a thorough and exhaustive examination of a question in which they have so grave an interest.

THE NAVY-LINE AGT. STAFF.

To the Editor of The Tribune Sm: You seem desirous of doing justice to the parties in the controvery as to the question of assim-

lated rank between the staff and line officers in the Navy; but it is so difficult for those who have not had some experience in the service to understand the points at issue that I am not surprised at the failure in your article of the 14th, on " The Quarrel in the Navy," to fully explain them. It is not so much a question of pay, because that I

think was never allowed (as you seem to infer), except in strict accordance with the law, but it relates more especially to rank and authority in the several departments. An engineer, however long he may have been in the service, never hesitates to obey an order from a line officer properly authorized to give it, so far as it relates to the starting or stopping of his engines, but he ques tions the authority of any line officer, however high his rank be, to order him to carry more steam than he considers safe. I knew of a case, in 1864, where such an order was given and obeyed under protest. This is the ind of assumptions that the staff seek to prevent in the controversy now pending. In the Army, in 1822, I knew regimental surgeon, in charge of an army hospital, who bearded a brigadier-general, and absolutely refused to bey his orders, when the health of the men under his charge was likely to suffer by such obedimee, and the brigadier was obliged to give up to the surgeon, two steps below him in rank. But last year we had a surgeon in the navy court martialed because he refused to order a man suffering from a cutiass wound on the head to duty, when he cansidered it improper to do so. Of course, the surgeon was found guilty, and alam confident he will have a hard time in the navy hereafter. It would be interesting to some of as to know
how and where the man rescrived the cutias would on
his head; whether the line officer who preferred the
charge was light in some way blamsable for the said
would?

charge was not in some way blankable for the said would!

I would not advise that the said should be made in all respects equal to the line, but I would have an sugmeer nominally in charge of the machinery of a vessel, made really responsible for it, and, if he refused to accept any property of the secondary of the reduced to accept any prove by ather engineers that he was justified in refusing. If a surgeon excuses a man from dair, let the testimony of other surgeons he exceived in justification or sendemention of him, if the commanding officer chooses to question his justiment. Unless these matters are conceded, engineers and surgeons having a proper regard for their professional signaling with be driven out of the service, and the care of the machinery and the health of the men left to those what yill not he shade to give every order, no matter how much it conflicts with their exceptions and programs.

Saratoga Springs, Jan. 18, 1670.

BOSTON.

ART AND LITERARY GOSSIP.

NEW BOOKS—A NOVEL BY MISS PHELPS—A LONG POEM BY JEAN INGELOW—THE BOSTON ART GALLERY PROJECT—ART IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS—THE LECTURE PLATFORM.

Boston, Jan. 20, 1870.-Undoubtedly the next solid sensation in literature-barring the beginning of Mr. Charles Dickens's yet unnamed story-will be the appearance of a novel by Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. The lady has finished her work, in which she has put a great deal of thought and study, and her publishers will sue it as soon possible. Her "Gates Ajar" made a popular hit in some measure unexpected : but the interest to e excited by this book may be predicted in advance, from its subject and character. It is a story a little longer than "Gates Ajar;" its scene is laid in New-England, and its title is " Hedged In." It deals with the question of the rehabilitation of fallen women, in which Miss Phelps has long taken a very warm and deep interest, and shows how an erring sister, with the inclination in her own eart to return to the ways of purity and virtue, may be hedged in " by kindly influences and brought back to a fe of honor and usefulness in spite of all the cruel tendencies of society to make such a result impossible. It is a difficult and delicate subject, but Miss Phelps has reated it with a great deal of skill and the power which omes with carnestness of conviction, and the result is a look sure to be widely talked about, and hence to be extensively sold.

Messrs. Fields, Osgood & Co. have also taken in hand a ook by Mr. J. K. Medbery, likely to be as eagerly conned in New-York as anywhere else, on "The Men and Myseries of Wall-st." It is an inside view of the operations of the speculators, and aims to give a complete expose of the way things are done in the brokers' offices and the gold room. Quite a misapprehension has been spread abroad as to the contents of Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson's new volume, "Society and Solitude." The contents have not mainly appeared in print before. Most of them have not been published anywhere, and those essays which have seen the light in periodicals have since been entirely rewritten.

The Rev. Mr. W. H. H. Murray's "Music Hall Sermons" are to appear in a volume with that title immediately on ompletion of the course, which will be about the last of March.

Miss Jean Ingelow has nearly completed a domestic story in verse, of between five and six hundred linesabout the dimensions, perhaps, of Mr. Whittier's "Snow Bound "-which she will publish in connection with some minor poems, quite new to the public, but said by those who have seen them to be quite worthy to rank with the best things she has done. The work has been done with special view to meeting the demand of the American ablic, and the book will probably make its first appear ance here, bearing the imprint of Roberts Brothers. It vill hardly appear before next Summer.

Messrs. Roberts Brothers have been greatly delayed in getting out Mr. William Morris's " Earthly Paradise," by the interference of the unscasonable freshets with the mill wheels of the paper-makers. They expect to have two editions, differing in size and price, ready the last week of the month. Were your readers aware that this brilliant and prolific new poet, a most companionable and pleas-ant man, deeply learned in the lore of Scandinavia, Iceand and Norway, is for his main profession a designer on glass! From the finish given to his poetry one might magine that he gave it as undivided attention as the Laureate himself, the great elaborator and refiner of The same publishers have information that Mr. Arthur Helps has again essayed fiction, and will shortly publish a novel called "Casimir Maremus," which is to be more popular in character than " Realmah." They expect to get it out in February. They are now stereptyping Miss Frothingham's translation of Goethe's exquisite poem, "Hermann and Dorothea," which will be accompanied with some illustrations," and which the house means to have ready before the gift-

making season of Easter.

A new edition of Prof. S. G. Brown's " Life of Rufu Choate " has been published by Little, Brown & Co. It originally appeared with the collected works of the orator, and even in that form has been out of print for several years. Some small additions have been made, mainly in freshly found material in the extracts from Mr.

hoate's private correspondence. Messrs. Lee & Shepard are to publish "The God-Man." religious work by Prof. Townsend of the Methodis Biblical Institute, author of "Credo." They have also in press a work on the question raised by the Catholic elenent in many cities, entitled "The Bible and the School Fund," by the Rev. Dr. Rufus W. Clark of Albany. Mr. Gideon Haynes's book on the Massachusetts State Prison, of which he is warden, is to be reissued by this firm in a new edition, bringing down the history a year later,

and with some other fresh matter.

The Rev. Dr. George E. Eilis is writing a life of Count Rumford for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, to accompany an edition of his writings. Count Rum-State, in 1753, and left the country during the Revolution under suspicion of Toryism. His discoveries in science were of immense importance, and his services as a philanthropist were of the greatest value. His biographer asks the aid of antiquarians in obtaining facts as to the early tife of Count Rumford in this country.

ART MATTERS.

The Art Gallery project, of which a description was given in this correspondence several weeks ago, has been revealed to the public, and is in satisfactory progress. People who have good means of judging, and are not apt to be over-sanguine, think the building will be in course of construction during the current year. A petition for a charter has been presented to the Legislature, with a list of corporators including President Eliot of Harvard University, President Rogers of the Institute of Technology . A. Lowell, Martin Brimmer, William Endicott, fr., Oth Norcross, G. B. Emerson, and as many more. The al named is a million of dollars. As soon as the charter is obtained, a large sum of money will be raised. Then the city will be asked for the use of the lot of land on the Back Bay, from which the last of the runs of the Coliseum are just disappearing. No opposition is likely to be made. The building, which will be begun at once will be of moderate dimensions, but so constructed as to be capable of extension almost indefinitely. Then there is already within the control of the managers of this enterprise a stock of art treasures of various kinds, such as will make a nucleus for the collection to be matched no where else in the country; and the start once gained. Boston will strive hard to keep the precedence in

Meanwhile, another art enterprise of smaller proporions, but not less striking character, is rapidly approachng fruition. Mr. C. C. Perkins and one or two other genlemen specially interested in art and in the education of he young to a taste for the beautiful, have ordered from Europe a dozen or fifteen fine plaster casts of some of the greatest statues of French and Italian galleries. The consignment will arrive next month. The gentlemen are now looking for a suitable room in one of the public school-houses of the city, where these casts will be placed permanently on view, silent educators of the eyes and hearts of the boys and girls who pass to and fro among them. It is probable that one of the new school-houses South End will be selected. The undertaking regarded as a first step; and it is quite likely that in the carly future all the public school buildings of Boston will be adorned not only with maps, globes, and blackboards but with the best products of the art of ancient and modern times. The idea is perhaps a little Quixotic; many of the little Bridgets and Sambos who are taught the alpha bet at the public expense may receive no visible benefit from daily familiarity with the Venus of Milo and the Wrestler; but at least there is no harm in it, and great ossibilities of good.

A new bust of the Hon. Charles Sumner, from the enisel of Mr. Martin Milmore, the gift of a party of gentlemen to the State, has been placed in a niche of the rotanda at the State House. A statue of a soldier in granite, by the same artist, has been dedicated this week as a soldier's monument in the village of North Brookfield, with an address by Gen. F. A. Walker of the Bureau of Statistics who is a native of the town, and served in its quota in the

The Rev. Edward Everett Hale is to deliver a course of secive evening lectures before the Lowell Institute, on The Divine Method for Human Life." His industry and fertility astonish his friends and the public anew every few weeks. He is instructing a class of young ladies in history, in a series of baif lectures, half talks, in the

vestry of his church.

The course of lectures which the Social Science Associ. ation has arranged before the Lowell Institute, is to begin February 23. It was hoped that Prof. Agassiz would open the series with an address on "University Educaenterprise : but Mr. Agassiz is still seriously iii, unable to I receive visitors, and is not nikely to appear on the pint-

form again at present. President Woolsey of Yale College will probably give the first lecture, though the dates are not yet fully arranged. Mr. Fred. Law Olmstead will speak on "Public Parks," Mr. C. C. Perkins on " Benefits of Art," Mr. Godkin of The Nation on " The Moral In fluence of Political Legislation," Prof. Pumpelly on "The Chinese Question," Mr. David Dudley Field on "The Representation of Minorities," Gen S. A. Duncan on "Patent Laws," Mr. Wm. B. Ogden of Chicago on "The

Material Growth of the North-West."

The course of Sunday lectures, which have been given the name of Free Religion addresses, and which make Horticultural Hall the special target for the fulminations of the evangelical clergy, are to begin on the 23d. The list of speakers covers a wide range of opinion, from Mr. Francis E. Abbot, who utterly rejects Christianity, and who is to talk about "Jesus and Socrates in the History of Religion," and Mr. T. W. Higginson, who now stands very near him, and who talks of "The Sympathy of Reons," to Mr. Wendell Phillips, who stands by the old faith much as Calvin expounded it, though not afraid to give his reasons in the company of the arch heretics. Between these comes Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who sticks to Christianity, who brings to this platform the most ethereal ized results of her metaphysical studies, and who takes for her title fals Winter, "The Ethics of Culture." Mr. Wm. Henry Channing is of the same way of thinking, and announces for his theme, "The Church of Universal Unity." Then there are Mr. O. B. Frothingham of your city, Mr. John S. Dwight, who speaks, as he generally writes, on "Music," Mr. John Weiss, Mr. D. A. Wasson, Mr. Samuel Longfellow, Mr. W. J. Potter, and Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney making twelve lectures in all, and occupying all the Sun days up to April 10.

The contemplated course of discussions between the Rev. Messrs. Haven and Alger, on the differing tenets of Orthodoxy and Unitarianism, has been postponed to another season.

MINOR MATTERS.

The managers of our Public Library are busy perfecting a scheme for the establishment of branches in different remote parts of the city. East Boston is so cut off from the peninsula by its wretched ferry accommodations that only one in twenty-six of its inhabitants, against about one in eight in the city proper, ever takes books from the Central Library. The first branch will therefore probably be established at East Boston, and others will follow at South Boston, Roxbury and Dorchester. The Trustees of the institution are restive under the criticism that the restrictions of red tape hamper the freedom of the Library. They earnestly desire to give every liberty consistent with safety and order. They have placed outside the entrance of the building inviting shields inscribed "Open to All," and are bound to do all they can to keep their books in the hands of the people.

Apropos of the Public Library, a very effective story has appeared in the public prints respecting the engage-ment of one of the young ladies employed there to marry a member of the English nobility, who has gone home to prepare for the nuptials. There is a substantial foundation of truth in the tale, which may be correctly told some day; but it is a sad commentary on Boston manners that the young lady in question has been so assailed in the discharge of her duty by impertment curiosity, people in great numbers coming in simply to stare at her, that she has been transferred to the seeluded work of the inner rooms to evade the slege.

HOUSES OF REFUGE-AN APPEAL.

In the Editor of The Tribune.

Siz: Can you tell me of a place in this whole vast city where, for a few days—a week or a fortnight—a poor broken-hearted victim of strong drink may flee or be led by those who pity him, for refuge from the pursuing demon t Some comfortable, homelike house, under wise superintendence and good moral influence, where a man, waking up to the horrors of a long debauch, and for the first time realizing that he is stared in the face by mania a otu, ruin to soul and body, a drunkard's death itselfcan run to rest and stop himself before it is forever too late! Where good attendance can be had-not necessarily professional save for the worst cases (to which a physician might be called from without, as in any man's private home), but sufficiently experienced and scientific to know the proper physical and moral appliances for warding off the dreaded attack of delirium, soothing the system, and gently unkeying the tremendous nervous ension, until that condition of languor ensues from which the patient may gradually be toned back to healthy vigor. and the nope of a new life t During this last stage of debility, how open is the unfortunate drunkard to all in-fluences that soften and lead toward repentance, and how many a man has dated from the tearful self-communings, the unreproachful pleadings of friends, which came at this hour, the struggle and the victory which made him a new creature !

I grieve to say that I know of no such place. Nothing came nearer my ideal of it than the Washingtonian Home in Boston, formerly managed by the noble-hearted Day (now at the head of Binghamton), and the good done by the institution and the man can only be estimated in Haavon where surely its record is. But here, unless a person by an official act, or has friends who, wisely or not, will take the responsibility of such a demission for him-unless he will consent to his own seclusion for a minimum of several months-he can get into neither an insane asylum nor any institution specially devoted to the inebriate. In either case, he has to go to some dis tance from the city; and I have been told by a patient recently from our asylum on the Island that, by bribing subordinates, liquor is easily and habitually procured there, and that it is no place to reform. Whether this sad statement be true or false, the Island Asylum is too far off for the purpose I mean. The home I have in view should be immediate of access to any man who wakes to the drundard's herror in our city streets, and should possess control of the patient only until the danger was over, so that men might be willing to go there in the earliest part of their downward career, and find a secure place to pause before drunkenness had become habitual. and a protracted restraint necessary. If public and private philanthropy could but unite to establish of migal lint comfortable basis one such home as this in all the great City of New-York, what untold misery might be saved to multitudes who, hopeless of any help in the beginning, now go on to the bitter end. I say one in the city; but, were our eyes enlightened, we should see the public wisdom of establishing one or more

every ward. What a godsend were such a place as I describe to the many unhappy wretches who are every year taken up intoxicated in the streets by our police, and in a condition where the highest medical skill and tenderest nursing are demanded to avert brain-disease or death, are unfeelingly plunged into narrow subterranean dunpseiousness to find themselves in a horror of pitiless iron and masonry, go mad with fear and shame, and hang themselves to the bars of their grate. Scarcely a month passes that some awful tragedy like this does not go out of the public notice with a line in the morning paper and another on the Coroner's book; and many a time have I shuddered in agony at reading it. But the im-mediate stimulus to the present communication was the fact that this very evening a friend of mine has been searching in vata for some blessed house of refuge like that above described, to which he might take a young man of naturally the poblest gifts and most gener spirit, who, friendless in the city but for him, came to his office in a horror, and told him that he had been on a mad spree since New-Year's Day; and, unless he could help him stop, knew no end to his career but insanity or death. Had we been in our own private house, at any expense of trouble, we should have taken him home with us. But what hope can we have for him now, save in God's final mercy, when, after fruitlessly searching for hours for a resting-place where this young man's body and soul might be cared for, my friend was compelled merely to give him money for his night's lodging, and use to see him in the morning! What a mercy would a house of refuge be to this young man-and how many a man to-night in our New-York streets is like him -it saddens my soul to think as I sit down at my own happy areside, with my own loving family, in comfortable lodgings. Cannot you help me to hear of some such refuge f-or cannot the love of God and man warm our hearts to establish such? "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me." New-York, 9th January, 1870.

Garibaldi has written a letter in which he Garibaldi has written a letter in which he denonices in very strong terms the closing by the authorities of the Anti-Council in Naples. He sarcastically aska how the meager representatives of labor and intelligence could have had the presumption to place themselves in opposition with those "rubicumd eminences" now sitting in splendid state at Rome, "I know not which is the greater," he adds in conclusion, "the insolonce of him who is tradden under foot. Throughout all my life when I have had a blow on the shoulder I have always tried to return it full is the face. It is for this reason that I say with Alfleri,

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

ARCHBISHOP MANNING AT THE ENGLISH COL-LEGE-HIS DOCTRINE OF PAPAL INFALLI-BILITY-DEATH OF CARDINAL REISACH. PROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.1

ROME, Dec. 30.—The Feast of St. Thomas of Can

terbury, as the celebrated Archbishop, Thomas a

Beckes is styled in the Roman calendar, was cele-

brated yesterday in the chapel of the English College. After the vesper service, a discourse was preached on the occasion by Archbishop Manning, who now holds a prominent place before the Catholic public, on account of his having been selected by His Holiness as the official "promoter" of the dogma of Papal Infallibility in the Council. Dr. Manning. as is well known, is distinguished among the English converts to the Roman Church by his extreme Ultramontane views, and his strenuous advocacy of the supremacy of the spiritual power over the civil governments of Europe. For this reason, the announceent of his intention to preach on the anniversary of Thomas á Becket awakened no little interest among the English circles in Rome. For myself I was glad of the opportunity both to see so celebrated a divine in the pulpit, and to listen to the exposition of his political creed, which I had no doubt he would take the occasion to set forth. It was rather late in the afternoon when I arrived at the College. The rain poured in torrents, and a crowd of carriages almost entirely blocked up the narrow street. English servants in livery who stood around the door, and the familiar sounds of the mother tongue, presented a strange contrast to the Roman aspect of the environ ment. With some difficulty, I forced my way to the entrance, but a band of priests on their knees, and the press of other worshipers prevented access to the Chapel. Making a slight retreat, in order to renew the assault to advantage, and profiting by the friendly services of one of the officials, to whom I appealed in the only language that is understood without grammar or dictionary, I was conducted to an excellent standing-place not far from the preacher, and, for once, found myself entirely at home in a congregation of Catholics. Every seat in the little chapel was filled. The sides were occupied by the udents of the College, about thirty-five in number, whose rosy complexion and robust forms afforded a favorable specimen of English youth. They had evilently not been exhausted by studious vigils, protracted fastings, or wearisome prayers. I was surprised at their appearance of ruddy health,-not a too common sight in Rome,-and at an exhibition of muscle that would not have disgraced a juvenile rower on the Thames. They were dressed in a complete suit of black, with short white tunics, reaching to just below the waist, and their heads covered with small academic caps. With their intelligent and manly expression of countenance, and their athletic figures, they were really a fine set of fellows, and looked as if they might have found a more congenial position in the British army, than as soldiers in the Roman Church militant. The audience, with the exception of the few, who like myself, stood in the isle, were principally women, doubtless members of the English and American colonies of converts to the Roman faith, who form a strong guerrilla force in the service of the Jesuits, and are nimble-tongued and enticing advocates of the pretensions of the Pope. The ceremonies of the occasion were conducted with the utmost simplicity. A number of burning candles before the altar, and a faint suspicion of incense, were all that reminded you that you were in a Roman chapel, instead of a Protestant Church. There were no solemn proc gorgeous vestments, ponderous with jewels and gold, no bowings, and curtseyings, and bendings of the head, no pompous exhibitions of any kind savoring less of worship than of the theater. It was a positive refreshment again to be brought into the sphere of good honest English, where the intellect was addressed as well as the imagination, and articulate words took the place of symbols more mysterious than the Egyptian hieroglyphics. Dr. Manning took his stand on the low platform in

grave earnestness, but promising no exhibitions of oratorical skill. He was dressed in the plainest ecclesiastical costume, an unpretending black robe, relieved with white, but with nothing to my eye, to designate a dignitary of the Church. He is a little above the middle hight, his form is slender, giving the impression of great fragility, his forehead high and tranquil, and his pale, intellectual face bears the marks of profound thought and study. You would not take him for a man of unusual practical energy, or a disposition to engage in the management of momentous affairs. He has not the features of a statesman, much less of a politician, and you do not at once detect the secret of his influence in the Church, which is said to be scarcely less potent than that of Cardinal or Pope. But the moment that he begins to speak, you discover in the tones of his voice a depth and sincerity of conviction, almost amounting to the faith which removes mountains. He has in him the stuff of which the sternest fanaticism is made. With no outward display, no visible signs of emotion, it is only by casual glimpses that you perceive the action of an inward fire. His voice is low, never rising above the level of familiar conversation, but singularly clear and deliberate, every syllable adding to the force of his words, not an accent lost to the ear of the listener who is strangely drawn into almost breathless attention, and charmed into the surrender of his sympathies, even under the protest of his intellect. In the manner of the preacher, there was not a trace of oratory, at least, in the popular acceptation of that term. His delivery is as quiet and simple as the voice of a mother in relating to her children the story of the "babes in the wood." In his enunciation, he has little emphasis, little variety of inflection, and no approach to rhetorical effect; the very repose of his utterance has something preternatural; I have seldom witnessed any thing like its power over the audience that day, whom he held on his lips with the weird fascination of the Ancient Mariner over the Wedding Guest. His style of composition is no less simple than his delivery. He puts forth no labored arguments, presents uo pathetic appeals, indulges in no flights of fancy; his discourse was almost entirely confined to statement, to a lucid expression of thought; but with such apparent artlessness, such freedom from all designs upon his hearers, such absorption in the truth of his words, with no carefulness as to the form of their utterance, as to give them a certain oracular force. But he has not spoken long before you are persuaded that beneath the gentle dignity of his exerior, there is concealed the heart of a volcano. The flame is raised to such an intensity of heat that its pure white rays are scarcely visible to the eye. I do not wonder at his boast that he has brought as many converts into the Church as there are days since his own restoration to the fold. After announcing his text in Latin, "If the Son

front of the altar, his looks and manner betraying

shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed," he proceeded to say, that in the principle involved in these words was found the charter of the liberties of the Church. The Church of God was dependent on no human power. She derived no privileges from the constitutions of men. She inherits her liberties as the immediate gift of Jesus Christ, transmitted by him to the Apostles, and continued in the hierarchy to the present day. Her rights are inherent and im mutable. From the very commencement of her life, which finds its source in the power of God, she had the right of existence, the right of worship, the right of possession or property, the right of doctrine, and the right of government. The exercise of these rights constitutes the essential liberties of the Church. She brought them into the Roman Empire when Christianity was accepted under Constantine as the religion of the State; she took them with her to England when the Gospel was proclaimed by Augustin in that Pagan island. The Church had never sorrendered these liberties,

enjoyed them to their full extent in the earliest days of English history. The bishops were a no less integral portion of the Government than the nobles, and between Parliaments and Conneils, there was no visible distinction. St. Thomas of Canterbury was a martyr to the liberties of the Church, and the laws of England. His life was a perpetual resistance to the encroachments of the royal prerogative. Dr. Man ning elucidated this idea at length by a masterly sketch of the public career of Thomas a Becket. describing his contests with the King, the strenuou fidelity with which he maintained his principles, and the heroic majesty with which he died in their defense. Could the sainted martyr address us to-day, continued the preacher, what would be his exhorta tion? He would tell us to be faithful to the liberties of the Church, to sustain them at all hazards, and jealously guard them from the invasion of the civit power. Independent of the Church, liberty is but a delusion and a snare. There is no safety in liberty unless it is confined to its true channel. It must flow between two banks, the law of God and faith in Christ, or it becomes the deadliest enemy of human society. The Church embodies these conservative elements, and is thus the only safeguard of civil government. Her authority, therefore, is supreme, and the kings and princes of the world are bound to ubmit to her behests. Could St. Thomas speak to us to-day, he would tell us further to maintain the supremacy of the Church without compromise. Her power is weakened by unworthy concessions. dethroned from the eminence, which by right she holds. He would tell us too to put on the armor of Christian courage, and manfully await the result No base fears should cripple our energies. We should work for the truth with no regard to consequences. The assurance of success should inspire our efforts, England has wandered long from the right path. She has left the dominion of the Church for the jurisdiction of man. But the day of her redemption begins to dawn. She is waiting to submit once more to the law of Christ, The breath of prayer is ascending from innumerable lips for her restoration to the ancient faith. The day will surely come when England will return to her early allegiance to the Churche and the government of God will prevail over the inventions of man. The spirit of St. Thomas is still alive in her children, and if we cannot die like him as martyrs to the faith, we can at least devote all the powers which we possess to the accomplishment of its triumphs. Of the drift of Dr. Manning's argument, such as it

was, you will be able to form an idea from my brief

abstract of his discourse, but I cannot give you any

notion of the incomparable subtlety with which he vailed and softened his radical, revolutionary doctrines by his infantile simplicity of expression and manner. From the meek, unconscious aspect of the speaker, and the winning graciousness of his words, on could have expected no deep designs against the governments of Europe, and it was only after reflection that you became fully awage of the comprehensiveness and andacity of his plot. Some of your readers may have seen a champion in the ring, facing his antagonist with downcast eyes and demure contenance, looking as harmless as any spaniel, when of a sudden he would aim a blow with deadly intent. Such was the saintly Archbishop on this occasion. He acted superbly his part of champion of the Pope against the liberties of mankind. For look but a moment at his doctrine. All power, by inherent divine right, is concentrated in the Roman Catholic Church. Legitimate sovereignty is not vested in the people, nor in secular monarchs, nor in representative assemblies, but in the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth. To him all human authorities owe their allegiance, and he is entitled to reign with the same supremacy as the laws of God in the material universe. By strict logical conclusions, the Infallibility of the Pope becomes a doctrine no less certain than the force of gravitation and the order of the solar system. This is the doctrine which Dr. Manning is pledged to sustain in the Council, and which, as interpreted and applied by him, assumes gigantic proportions. It is quite a different theory from that of the supremacy of the Pope in merely spiritual rela-tions, clothing him with absolute authority not only over the consciences of men, but with power to dietate the conditions of civil government, and adding the infinite force of religious sentiment to an Irresponsible tyranny. According to Dr. Manning, the Pope, by God-given right, is not only the sovereign of Rome, but the autocrat of the world. It needs but another step to identify the Supreme Pontiff with any meaning, as a matter of fact, is already virtually accomplished in the imagination of the Roman populace. It was only to-day that while driving through one of the narrow streets of the city, I was overtaken by the stately equipage of His Holiness The passers-by on either side were at once hushed to silence. No one moved from the spot where he stood. Every head was uncovered, and every man and woman kuelt down in the mud. The drivers of carriages left their seats, and joined the prostrate crowd. Moses at the burning bush could have given no stronger proofs of awe and adoration. The Pope benignly waved his paternal hand to bless the multitude, and even imparted a share of the benediction to the strangers and Gentiles who were in the shadow of his presence.

The programme of Dr. Manning finds ample support and illustration in the Papal Bull concerning excommunications, which was presented to the Fathers of the Council at the First General Congregation, but which has not been youchsafed to the public at large until within the last few days. It is a document of the most extraordinary character, claiming an authority for the Pope over the keys of Heaven, that would make the kings and princes of the earth the vassals of his throne, unless they renounced their allegiance to his rule. But the contents of this paper are too important to be described in the space that remains to me, and I must revert to the subject in my next letter.

The Fourth General Congregation was held on the th inst., in the Council Hall. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Spalding of Baltimore. The names of the twenty-four Fathers, elected to form the Depntation on Ecclesiastical Discipline, as stated in my last letter, were announced to the Council, which afterward proceeded to vote for the third Deputation. which is charged with the subject of Religious Or ders. I have not yet been able to obtain the names of this Deputation. The Fathers then engaged in the discussion of some of the questions that had been submitted to them on the schedules of the "Business Committee," when speeches were made by Archbishop Kenrick of St. Louis, Archbishop Connolly of Halifax, Cardinal Ranscher, Archbishop of Vienna, the Archbishop of Sorrento, the Archbishop of Smyrna, and one or two others. Of the questions that were brought before the Conneil, and the perport of the speeches, I will confess that I am as ignorant as the rest of the world in Rome. I might load your columns with conjectures, of which there is no dearth, but they would add nothing to the information of your readers. I will only add that, accordi to general report, there was a vehement and het de bate. Neither side appeared to be under the influence of the Holy Dove, though its favor is claimed by both.

Death has again been busy in the ranks of the Sacred College. The funeral of Cardinal Pentini had scarcely been celebrated, when we hear that the rotracted illness of Cardinal Reisach has been brought to a fatal termination. He died at a religious house in Savoy beneath the shadow of Mont Blanc, to which he had resorted several weeks since for the benefit of his health. He was one of the oldest men bers of the College of Cardinals, having been born in the year 1800, and elevated to the ecclesiastical 'Hat" about fourteen years ago. It is understood that he enjoyed the confidence, and even the offection, of the Pope, in no common degree. He was the sturdy and unflinching advocate of the scheme 5 x under nay changes of political constitutions. She establishing the Infallibility of the Pope at dogus